

2022 St. Louis Earth Day Festival Vendor Spotlight Descriptions

These 10-minute talks by our registered vendors will open the door to longer discussions about environmental issues and how they each try to address it through their programs and products. Catch them at the Forest and Meadow education tent 15 minutes before the hour.

Saturday

11:45a Friends of the Rainforest - Sophie Arp

Friends of the Rainforest will talk about the connections between St. Louis and the Children's Eternal Rainforest in Costa Rica. From the migratory birds that travel from Missouri to Central America, to things you can do in your own backyard to support and protect the incredible biodiversity in the Rainforest, we are all more connected than you may think! You may not think your actions in your local communities can help protect the Rainforest, but even our smallest efforts can have a huge impact!

12:45am St. Louis Animal Rights Team - Bonnie Boime

The environmental advantages of a plant-based lifestyle.

2:45pm International Institute of St. Louis - Armina Petrescu-Tudor

The International Institute of St. Louis resettles refugees from around the world here in St. Louis. There are currently over 82 million people that have been forcibly displaced from their homes as a result of conflict, persecution, violence, or human rights violations. The amplified impacts of climate change will displace even more people. The International Institute will give examples of areas where climate change has already caused displacement of people, and will share some ways attendees can take action.

3:45pm City Greens Market - Alyssa Boles

Systemic injustice and racism in current food systems and what individuals and organizations can do to address it.

Sunday

11:45pm Forest ReLeaf of Missouri - Meredith Perkins

The power of trees: Conserving and growing tree canopy is the low hanging fruit of climate action. Functioning forests are essential to a healthy planet, yet we are losing trees at an alarming rate across the world, and in our local communities. The void left behind contributes to the climate crisis we experience today. We need more trees to hold the soil in place during heavy floods. We need more trees to sequester the additional carbon in air. We need more trees to shade our cities and absorb heat while cooling the air. We need more trees to connect people to nature in a way that inspires them to do better.

This talk will explore how trees can be part of a comprehensive solution to the effect of climate change and what local actions can be taken to make a positive impact in protecting, conserving, and creating more tree canopy in your yard, your town, your country, and your world.

Sunday

12:45pm The Environmentalists - Gary Rickerd

Valuing public lands and public parks and the benefits they provide to both ourselves and the natural environmental balance of Earth. We have common public ownership of lands throughout Missouri and throughout the nation. To preserve the wilderness of those lands needs participation of the public to express that natural wilderness is valued and in some places restoration of previous wildernesses is desired.

1:45pm Sparkle Adventures - Teresa Willis

Teresa Willis, the Girl Camper Missouri Guide and owner of Sparkle Adventures is obsessed with reducing her waste and impact on the planet. Learn a few tips for being more sustainable on this summer's camping trips.

2:45pm EFS Energy, Inc - Grace Tedder

These days, everyone is talking local - eating local, buying local - but what about local energy? Historically, when we think about our energy supply, we think of transporting oil, gas and coal from across the country and the world, burning them at energy plants outside urban centers, and transporting that energy across miles of power lines to end users. But increasingly, solar has presented opportunities for localized energy grids, where a significant portion of energy is produced in the same neighborhoods where it is used. Distributed energy grids provide benefits over the traditional centralized model - in terms of clean energy, energy reliability, financial savings, community energy sovereignty and more. Join EFS Energy, a St. Louis-based solar installer, for a look into what localized energy grids are and what they have to offer for our communities and our clean energy future.

3:45pm Uhuru Solidarity Movement - Jesse Nevel

As an organization under the leadership of the Black working class, we will specifically address how colonialism created the basis for the destruction of the environment, and address white people in the environmentalist movement to win others like ourselves to recognize our responsibility to support reparations to African people and to unite with the struggles of African, Indigenous and colonized peoples for freedom and independence, the road to genuine peace and unity.